Serial No. 10/717,122 Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present preliminary amendment, claims 10-38 have been canceled and

claims 39-56 have been added. Thus, claims 39-56 are pending in the present application. No

new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment. Support for the newly added

claims may be found in the specification at, for example, p. 14, 11. 16-20.

The rejections issued in the Final Office Action are believed to be moot in view of the

claims submitted in the present preliminary amendment. It is respectfully submitted that all

pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance in view of the prior art of record. The

Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions,

comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 8, 2006

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